



Sen. William R. Haine

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09300SB2618sam001

LRB093 18548 LCB 49431 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2618

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 2618 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Medical Student Loan Repayment Assistance Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. The purpose of this Act is to
7 establish a program in the Department of Public Health to
8 increase the total number of physicians in this State by
9 providing educational loan repayment assistance grants to
10 physicians.

11 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act, unless the context
12 otherwise requires:

13 "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

14 "Educational loans" means higher education student loans
15 that a person has incurred in attending a registered
16 professional physician education program.

17 "Physician" means a person licensed under the Medical
18 Practice Act of 1987 to practice medicine in all of its
19 branches.

20 "Program" means the educational loan repayment assistance
21 program for physicians established by the Department under this
22 Act.

1 Section 15. Establishment of program. The Department shall
2 establish an educational loan repayment assistance program for
3 physicians who practice in Illinois. The Department shall
4 administer the program and make all necessary and proper rules
5 not inconsistent with this Act for the program's effective
6 implementation. The Department may use up to 5% of the
7 appropriation for this program for administration and
8 promotion of physician incentive programs.

9 Section 20. Application. Beginning July 1, 2004, the
10 Department shall, each year, consider applications for
11 assistance under the program. The form of application and
12 information required to be set forth in the application shall
13 be determined by the Department, and the Department shall
14 require applicants to submit with their applications such
15 supporting documents as the Department deems necessary.

16 Section 25. Eligibility. To be eligible for assistance
17 under the program, an applicant must meet all of the following
18 qualifications:

19 (1) He or she must be a citizen or permanent resident
20 of the United States.

21 (2) He or she must be a resident of Illinois.

22 (3) He or she must be practicing full-time in Illinois
23 as a physician.

24 (4) He or she must currently be repaying educational
25 loans.

26 (5) He or she must agree to continue to practice
27 full-time in Illinois for 3 years.

28 Section 30. The award of grants. Under the program, for
29 each year that a qualified applicant practices full-time in
30 Illinois as a physician, the Department shall, subject to
31 appropriation, award a grant to that person in an amount equal

1 to the amount in educational loans that the person must repay
2 that year. However, the total amount in grants that a person
3 may be awarded under the program shall not exceed \$25,000. The
4 Department shall require recipients to use the grants to pay
5 off their educational loans.

6 Section 35. Penalty. Loan repayment recipients who fail to
7 practice full-time in Illinois for 3 years shall repay the
8 Department a sum equal to 3 times the amount received under the
9 program.

10 Section 80. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
11 adding Section 5-5.25 as follows:

12 (305 ILCS 5/5-5.25 new)

13 Sec. 5-5.25. Rate increase to Medicare rate level.
14 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the
15 Department of Public Aid shall increase the rates paid to every
16 physician licensed to practice in all its branches in Illinois
17 for (vendor) services provided to recipients of medical
18 assistance under this Article so that the rate paid under this
19 Article for each such service is equal to the rate paid to a
20 vendor for services under the Medicare program. The Department
21 shall implement this rate increase over a period of 3 years so
22 that one-third of the increase is applied for State fiscal year
23 2005, 50% of the remaining balance is applied for State fiscal
24 year 2006, and the entire amount of the remaining balance is
25 applied for State fiscal year 2007. Thereafter, the rates paid
26 under this Article shall equal the rates paid under the
27 Medicare program.

28 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
29 becoming law.".